Joy Brewer

From: Andrea Chynoweth <littlenuthatch@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2014 6:24 PM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: Reject SB78

Dear Committee Members

More than 133 Michigan scientists have registered their opposition to SB 78 as a travesty, a reversal of human intelligence, an end of our progress in coming to understand, appreciate, and protect this beautiful Creation we're charged to protect.

Biodiversity = Life. To remove the protection of biodiversity from the mandate of the DNR would be an affront to Life and Creation itself - it would be an abortion.

A simple example should suffice: Pollinator species such as honey bees and bats are responsible for fully 40% of the foods we eat. Both honey bees and bats are now on the decline in Michigan, threatening both agricultural production and our foodstuffs.
Intelligent loggers, farmers, hunters, fishers and countless Michiganders who enjoy and depend on the bounty of our natural resources, recognize that the riches of Creation come from the very abundance of species we enjoy, each interdependent on the others.

SB 78 would hamstring the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from doing what it is entrusted to do: protect and conserve Michigan's natural resources for future generations. By striking biodiversity from Michigan's land management goals, the anti-biodiversity bill sets back the clock to the days when we put bounties on predators, poisoning them and killing them off, causing deer populations to explode beyond the ability of the land to feed them. Our Great Lakes "Father of Conservation" Aldo Leopold, long ago turned us away from this ignorant policy that resulted in a denuded landscape and a starving deer herd. All species play important roles in God's Creation - refusing our roles as stewards to protect all species is an affront on the Creator.

SB 78 would be that affront on the Creator, essentially gutting the Endangered Species Act, by vastly limiting the DNR's ability to enforce it. It would remove tools from the DNR's toolbox that would typically be applied to restore and protect biodiversity, Michigan's rare and endangered species - and all species would eventually suffer.

Please act in good conscience and wisdom, and vote to defeat this pernicious SB 78 once and for all!

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